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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

WALTER J.A. DE COSTER ET AL

PHQ 99,010

Serial No.

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

METHOD OF MANUFACTURING AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT COMPRISING AN IMPROVED SILICIDATION AND A CORRESPONDING INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the depth (h) of the trench is equal to maximally half the height (H1) of the larger isolation layer and maximally half the thickness (E) of the larger isolation layer.
- 4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that

the vertical portion of the smaller isolation layer (402) is anisotropically etched.